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Message Text

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62
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W
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R 201051Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1826
INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4668

E.O. 11652: ADS 1 APRIL 76
TAGS: PINT,TH
SUBJ: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT

1. SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS DEMANDING A DISSOLUTION OF THE LOWER HOUSE DEMONSTRATED OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT DURING THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT THE EVENING OF MARCH 19. KRIANGSAK KRODI, HEAD OF THE STUDENT AND PEOPLE'S FRONT, LED THE DEMONSTRATION. THE PROTESTERS BURNED EFFIGIES OF PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT, HOUSE SPEAKER PRASIT KANCHANAWAT, AND AGRICULUTRE MINISTER THAWIT KLINPRATHUM. FOLLOWING THE VOTE, THE DEMONSTRATORS MOVED TO SANAM LUANG WHERE THEY REPORTEDLY CONTINUED THE DEMONSTRATION UNTIL MORNING. AN EMBASSY POLITCAL ASSISTANT WHO VISITED SANAM LUANG AT 0900 MARCH 20, HOWEVER, SAW ONLY 3 OR 4 STUDENTS WITH A SOUND TRUCK AND ABOUT 20 ONLOOKERS.

2. SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS GATHERED AT LUMPHINI PARK EARLY MARCH 20 REPORTEDLY TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT. AS OF NOON MARCH 20, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANY DEMONSTRATION THERE HOWEVER.

3. PHINIT CHARUSOMBAT, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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IS QUOTED IN THE MARCH 20 " BANGKOK POST" AS EXPRESSING DEEP

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REGRET AFTER THE KHUKRIT CABINET WON THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. PHINIT SAID KHUKRIT'S VICTORY DID NOT MEAN THAT MP'S AGREED WITH HIS CABINET'S POLICY BUT ONLY THAT "MONEY" HAD CONVINCED SOME MINOR PARTIES TO VOTE FOR HIM.

4. COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO HAVE FIZZLED OUT, BUT STUDENT UNHAPPINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN UN-SETTLING FACTOR. STUDENT CRITICISM CENTERS ON THE DUBIOUS REPUTATIONS AND CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE THANOM GOVERNMENT OF SEVERLA CABINET MEMBERS, SUCH AS THAWIT. (BANGKOK 4489) MASTERS

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